

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1

COUNTRY Austria

DATE DISTR. 26 April 1955

SUBJECT SMV Exploratory Drilling Activity near
Rabensburg, Lower Austria

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. 25X1
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. [REDACTED] (SMV) has been negotiating with the administrators of the estates for the purchase of certain properties in Lower Austria. However the administrators of the estates will permit the SMV only to acquire and erect drillings rigs on small separate parcels of land, without ceding the rights to the whole area in which SMV is interested.
2. As of 9 February, SMV was operating one exploratory drilling rig located between the Rabensburg railroad station and the Bernstein-Bernhardsthal highway. At drilling point number two, which is located near the Rabensburger forester's lodge, an oil producing strata had been reached and plugged up (tamponiert) to prevent its interference with the new drillings. The crude from this well had contained 70 percent pure gasoline(sic); at [REDACTED] water were found.
3. [REDACTED] the Rabensburg church, an oil producing [REDACTED], but drillings were continued to 2,000 meters. Uncontrollable seepage difficulties developed at this depth even though extra casing cement was used. Plans to prepare this well for production have been temporarily given up. However the drilling rig is still standing and all personnel in the vicinity of the well are on alert duty to prevent or immediately control a blowout similar to the one that had occurred at Zwerndorf.¹

Comment. The blowout and subsequent control of the well at Zwerndorf in February 1954 was reported

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Since the beginning of 1954, the Soviet Mineral-Oil Administration in Austria (SMV) has been negotiating with the administrators of the Prince Liechtenstein estates for the purchase of certain properties in the vicinity of Rabensburg, Lower Austria. However, the administrators of the estates will permit the SMV only to acquire and erect drilling rigs on small, separate parcels of land, without ceding the rights to the whole area in which SMV is interested.

As of 9 February, SMV was operating an exploratory drilling rig located between the Rabensburg railroad station and the Bernstein-Bernhardsthal highway. At drilling point number two, which is located near the Rabensburger forester's lodge, an oil producing strata had been reached and plugged up (temporarily) to prevent its interference with the new drillings. The crude from this well had contained 70 percent pure gasoline (sic); at further depths large amounts of salt water were found.

At another drilling site east of the Rabensburg church, an oil producing horizon had been reached at 1,600 meters, but drillings were continued to 2,000 meters. Uncontrollable seepage difficulties developed at this depth, even though extra casing cement was used. Plans to prepare this well for production have been temporarily given up. However, the drilling rig is still standing and all personnel in the vicinity of the well are on alert duty to prevent or immediately control a blowout similar to the one that had occurred at Zwerndorf.

Comment: The blowout and subsequent control of the continuous eruption of the well at Zwerndorf in February 1954 was reported in

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